

The Whip Wake-Up

Wednesday, October 16, 2002	
House Meets Today At	GOP Leadership Predicts Last Vote
Noon	2:00 pm / 8 - 9 pm (First Vote Possible) (Last Vote)
Number of "One-Minutes" Today: Unlimited	

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- # **Suspension Bill:** Today, the House is scheduled to consider **ONE** Suspension bill by unanimous consent. Suspension bills are debatable for 40 minutes each, may not be amended, and require a two-thirds majority for passage.
- 1) H.R. ???? - Community Health Centers Act
- # **Postponed Votes (Suspension bills):** After one minutes, votes will occur on the following bill postponed from Tuesday. Suspension bills require a two-thirds majority for passage.
- 1) H.R. 2155 - Sober Borders Act
- # **4th Continuing Resolution through November 22nd (H.J.Res. 123):** Next, the House will consider a 4th Continuing Resolution to provide temporary funding for the government through November 22nd.
- # **Martial Law Rule to Provide for Same Day Consideration of a rule for consideration of a Continuing Resolution if the first one fails:** Next, the House will consider a Martial Law rule debatable for one hour to bring up another Continuing Resolution if the first one fails. Under Martial Law, the one day layover requirement under House rules is waived. **This is a serious attack on the rights of the minority guaranteed by the House rules. Under Martial Law, members will have no notice and no time to review the language of the CR and any extraneous provisions attached to it before they are required to vote. VOTE NO to protect the rights of the minority to review legislation before being asked to vote on it.**
- # **Republican Leadership’s so-called “Economic Stimulus” package (H.R. ???):** Next, the House will consider a motion to concur in the Senate amendments with an amendment to H.R. 5063. The motion allows Congressman Thomas (R-CA) to **tack on the Republican Leadership’s Economic Stimulus package to H.R. 5063 while BLOCKING Democrats from offering a substitute, any amendments, or even a motion to recommit. Democrats will seek to DEFEAT the PREVIOUS QUESTION on the rule to offer a substitute that provides immediate economic relief without jeopardizing the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.**

Bill Summaries and Key Issues

- Republican Leadership’s so-called “Economic Stimulus” package (H.R. ???):** The Republican Leadership’s “Economic Stimulus” package primarily benefits the wealthy and would do little for the vast majority of middle-income workers who have already lost millions in their pension and retirement accounts. The first part of the package, H.R. 1619, would increase the amount of net capital losses that taxpayers could immediately deduct on their tax returns from \$3,000 to \$8,250. The bulk of H.R. 1619 benefit the wealthy, and more than half of this tax subsidy would go to households with incomes above \$100,000. **Rank-and-file workers, whose retirement accounts have been devastated due to declining stock prices, would receive no benefit because the proposal only helps individuals with losses on investments outside their retirement plans.** The second part, H.R. 5558, would accelerate and make permanent increases in IRA and 401(k) contribution limits from last year’s tax bill, and would increase the retirement age from 70½ to 75. This will primarily benefit wealthy individuals capable of making large contributions to their retirement plans. **The vast majority of workers have been unable to make a \$2,000 maximum contribution to their IRAs, according to a 2000 Treasury Department report. The Republican unemployment provision does not permanently extend the current benefits program, which expires at the end of this year, and does almost nothing for workers who have already exhausted their Federal benefits.** H.R. 5587 extends the current program for **only three months and for only three high unemployment states.** As a result, the bill effectively terminates all extended unemployment assistance in nearly every state, and it totally ignores workers who have already exhausted their benefits.
- L **Democrats will seek to DEFEAT the PREVIOUS QUESTION on the rule to offer a substitute that provides immediate economic relief, is targeted to those in need, and is paid for.** The Democratic economic proposal includes; **26 weeks of extended unemployment benefits** for workers in every state, and an additional 7 weeks for those in high unemployment states; **an increase in small business expensing costs;** **a prohibition on expatriates** who leave the country to avoid paying taxes, **closing corporate tax shelters,** and **corporate responsibility provisions;** **tax relief for military personnel;** **tax-advantaged bonds to provide \$25 billion for school modernization and repair,** and to **create good-paying jobs** in local communities. **Unlike the Republican proposal, which costs \$65 billion over 10 years and will cause a further raid on the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds, the Democratic package will be paid for.**